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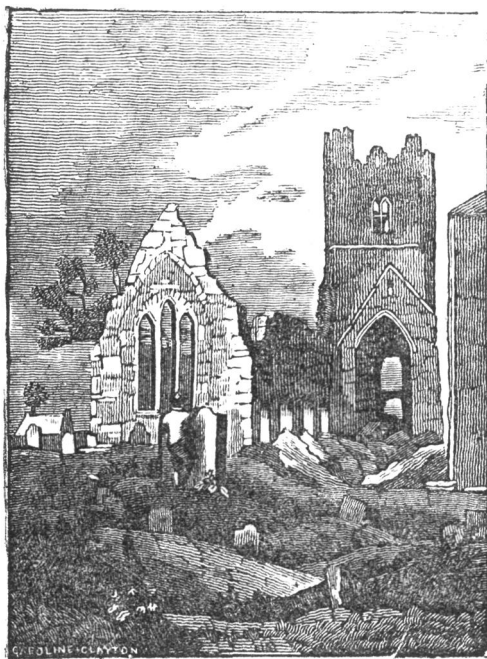
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DULEEK CHURCH, COUNTY OF MEATH.



This venerable ruin is situated about twenty miles from the metropolis, a little to the left of the mail-coach line to Drogheda, in the village of Duleek, on the Nanny-water. The ruined *Abbey-Church*, with its majestic tower is, with justice, perhaps, supposed to have been the first stone edifice, of its kind, erected in Ireland. St. Cianan, or Kenan, is said to have founded the abbey about 488: it was frequently plundered by the Danes, as well as by the Irish in their intestine wars; notwithstanding which, it contained great riches at the Dissolution, and was possessed of a very large property in lands and tithes. The bodies of Brien Boromhe, and Morogh, his son, both slain at the battle of Clontarf, were brought by the monks of Swords to this abbey, and from thence conveyed to Louth by those of St. Cianan.

Athearne Castle, romantically situated in the midst of trees, not far from the Nanny-water, which flows by its north side, is a large square building, defended at the angles by towers; the whole in good preservation. To the west, adjoining the main building, are offices, which appear to be of the same date. The principal entrance, which is on the south side, is through a pointed arch. The houses and plantings in the neighbourhood form an agreeable contrast to the barren and uncultivated appearance of the country through which the traveller has had to pass during the preceding eighteen or twenty miles of his journey, in the route from Dublin to Drogheda. It is said King James slept in the castle on the night previous to the battle of the Boyne.

THE WATER-MOLE OF AUSTRALIA.

(Continued from our notice of "The Amulet.")

It was on a beautiful evening, in the month of October, the commencement of summer in Southern latitudes, that, arrived in a district lying to the south-west of Sydney, and distant about two hundred miles from that seat of the Colonial Government, I approached the banks of the Yas river, in the interior of Australia. The scenery here is of the most picturesque description: the open forest country and wooded hills; the neat cottage and garden, with the grain of a vivid green just bursting into ear, the tranquillity around being only occasionally disturbed by the lowing of cattle, bleating of sheep, or the gay and blithesome notes of the feathered tribe. The silver stream of the Yas continued its silent course, its banks adorned by the beautiful pendulous *Acacias*, which, at that season,

were profusely covered by their rich golden and fragrant blossoms; while the lofty and majestic gum-trees, the graceful manna, or the dark "swamp oak," added to the variety and beauty of the landscape.

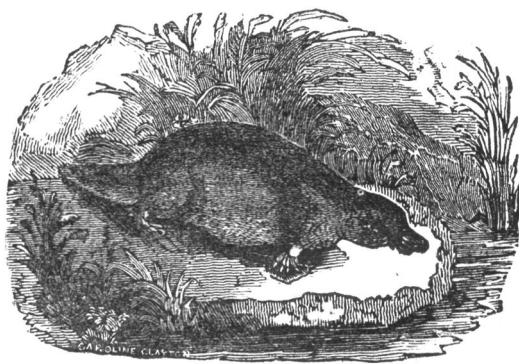
The sun was near its setting, when at a more quiet part of the river I sought the burrows of those shy animals, the "water-moles," the *ornithorynchus paradoxus* of naturalists, known also as the platypus or duck-billed animal.

Those only who are accustomed to view, and investigate the varying productions of nature—whether in the peculiar forms and habits of the animal, or the brilliant and animating varieties of the vegetable world—can appreciate the true feelings of enjoyment experienced on seeing in their native haunts creatures which before were known merely from vague description.

Perhaps no animal on its first introduction into Europe gave rise to greater doubts as to its being a production of nature, or excited deeper interest among naturalists respecting its habits and economy, than this paradoxical creature, which, from its external appearance, as well as internal anatomy, may be correctly described as forming a connecting link between the bird and the quadruped.

The animal, when seen in a living state running along the ground, conveys to the spectator an idea of something supernatural, and its uncouth form produces terror in the minds of the timid: even the canine race (except those accustomed to bring them out of the water when shot) stare at them with erect ears, and the feline race avoid them: still, although of such a "questionable shape," it is an animal of perfectly harmless, although restless, disposition.

Among the colonists in Anstralia it is known by the name of "water-mole," from some resemblance it bears to the common European mole. By the aboriginal tribes at Bathurst, Goulbourn Plains, Yas, Murrumbidgee and Tumat countries, it is designated by the two names, *Mal-langong* and *Tambreet*, the latter being more in use with them than the former.



The above print may assist the reader in forming a correct notion of the peculiar shape and character of the animal. The body is depressed like the otter, mole, and beaver. It is covered by long and thick dark brown hair, underneath which is a short and very soft fur, resembling the two distinct kinds found on the seal and otter; on the abdomen, breast, and throat, the fur and hair is of much finer quality, and more silky in its nature. In young specimens the under surface of the tail is covered by hair of a beautiful silvery white; this is lost, however, in the adult; the under surface of the tail in such, having merely a few coarse hairs scattered over it. This circumstance induced many to suppose that the animal uses its tail as a trowel, in a manner similar to the beaver; but from an examination of their burrows, I have no doubt that the hair is rubbed off by the attrition of the tail on the surface of the ground. The tail is flat, broad, and inclining on each side abruptly off at the termination, beyond which the long hairs project. The hair on the upper part of the tail is of a dark colour, long, and coarse, and destitute of the peculiar glossy appearance of the other parts of the body. There was no variation in the colour of the fur in all the specimens I have seen; the under short fur is of a